



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Marcellas Pope, as Peter Rabbit and First Lettuce, Annaliza Montevirgen, deliver their lines during the first performance by Smith Elementary School first graders of an operetta titled "A Peter Rabbit Operetta." Some second graders were also part of the salad saga.

## Peter Rabbit comes to life

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Peter Rabbit was reportedly seen loose in a vegetable garden in Baumholder recently but all the green veggies didn't hide their heads in the soil in hopes that he would not eat them. Instead, they sprouted legs and vocal cords and began to sing and dance around the carrot aficionado.

No, these are not the opening remarks of an Army training manual addressing the latest innovation in genetically altered fruits and vegetables.

It is, however, one of the opening scenes of a "A Peter Rabbit Operetta" recently performed by Smith Elementary School first grade students and a bushel full of second graders.

Before an attentive audience, the cotton tailed hare and his vegetable sidekick, the "First Lettuce," traded lines with other residents of the vegetable patch.

Providing Piano backup was Jackie Maglio. But when a group of radical "green beans" took the stage,

Maglio took a break as they broke into their version of the Village People hit "YMCA."

Gloria Finch, first grade teacher at Smith Elementary School, threw the hour-long, vegetable entree together to help foster one of DoDEA's goals of parental and school participation. "It's about involving community, parents and students together," said Finch.

The parents were deeply involved with rehearsals, costumes and transportation, explained Finch.

The operetta was primarily performed by first grade students but some second graders that had attended Finch's class last year were used because, well, there were just not enough vegetables in the garden. In all, 33 first and second grade students presented the operetta twice at the Baumholder American High School Play House.

The children rehearsed their parts since January as part of their language arts program, said Finch.

The play was held in conjunction with other activities on Baumholder to help celebrate the Month of the Military Child.

## Post Notes

### ACAP mil 485-6741

#### Plan summer around VA

Summer is just around the corner and so are vacation plans, perhaps a PCS move, and little league games. Summer fun is important, but so are military benefits.

So, don't miss an opportunity to learn about Veterans' Administration benefits from a stateside VA representative because of picnics and unit barbecues. Currently, there is no permanently stationed VA representative in Germany, so reschedule the barbecue and come to ACAP and learn about the benefits that the VA offers active duty soldiers, retirees, family members, and separating soldiers.

The Army Career and Alumni Program will be hosting a Veterans' Administration briefing June 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Baumholder ACAP office.

The VA briefing is just part of ACAP's mandatory pre-separation briefing for all soldiers leaving the military. Soldiers separating from the Army within six months to a year, or trying to decide whether or not to leave the Army, need to begin the ACAP process this summer. Orders are not required to attend and going to an ACAP briefing does not mean that soldiers have to get out of the Army if they change their mind.

ACAP can help soldiers decide if separating from the Army is in their best interest by reviewing Army and VA benefits after separation, examining the current job market, and by assessing job skills that transfer into civilian life. Contact the ACAP office with any questions on the VA briefing or the Army transition process at mil 485-6330/6741 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

Transitioning soldiers and their family members can take advantage of the following ACAP classes scheduled for May and June:

**Mandatory Preseparation Briefing:**  
May 30, 8:30-noon

June 13, 8:30-noon (VA briefing at 10:30 a.m.)

June 27, 8:30-noon

**Job Assistance Workshop:**

May 30, 1 to 4 p.m.; May 31, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 13, 1-4 p.m.; June 14, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 27, 1-4 p.m.; June 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spouses of soldiers transitioning out of the Army are welcome and encouraged to attend all ACAP activities. For more information and to reserve a space for all classes, contact ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

### ACS 485-7196

#### ACS at a glance

A newcomers coffee is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. June 6 in the Army Community Service lounge.

Army Community Service and the Baumholder Library are offering story hour for children in the morning. Story hours are offered 10 to 11 a.m., May 25, June 8 and 22 at the Baumholder Library. People who would like to be a guest reader may contact the ACS Outreach Program at mil 485-6252.

The International Spouses Club meets from 10 a.m. to noon May 18 and June 1 and 15 in the Army Community Service lounge.

Family Support Group training is offered from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 17 in the Rheinlander.

The next Level One Army Family Team Building class is May 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call mil 485-8542 for location details. A second class is scheduled for June 14.

Level two training is scheduled for June 21 and 22.

#### ACS calendar

May 17, SG Training (Rheinlander)

May 19, Job Applications

May 22 - 25, Military Spouses Workshop

May 26, Communication Class

May 30, Town Hall Meeting (Rheinlander)

### Around the Rock Unit update

#### A night to remember

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team hosts its first annual all ranks ball June 10 from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the Ramstein Officers Club. The cost is \$20 dollars and includes dinner, raffles, surprises, a guest speaker, dancing, and some entertainment. Contact your unit S-1 for ticket reservations or Staff Sgt. Tommy Carson at mil 485-7441/7544.

#### FSG meets after Links

Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade holds its monthly Family Support Group meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday following the monthly community Links meeting in the company dayroom in Building 8252.

#### 4-27th FA calendar

• Dining out and spring ball, May 19, starting at 8 p.m. at Potzberg Castle

### Chapel chimes 485-1570

#### Orphanages need help

The Community Chaplain's Office is coordinating efforts to assist some needy orphanages in Romania. This effort supports the work of the Romanian Evangelical Medical Missions Society as they help church affiliated and other orphanages in their work in this former East Bloc country. Drop-off boxes have been placed at various locations around the community to collect children's winter clothing, shoes and toys, and non-powered hand tools. The clothes and shoes should be clean and serviceable. The drive for these items continues through the end of May. For further information, contact the chaplain's office at mil 485-1570.

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## VBS needs volunteers

The St. Michael's Catholic community needs volunteers and teacher aids to help with a Vacation Bible School June 26 through 30. Preregistration for the school is held after the Sunday Masses in Chapel Two. Persons interested in assisting may call Karen Kwarciany at civ (06783) 981098. Training sessions are offered for volunteers in the VBS program May 24, June 7 and June 21 at 6 p.m. in Chapel two. For more information, Call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel W. Taylor at mil 485-1570.

## DoDDS update

### Clinic readies coaches

A football clinic and camp is scheduled June 1 - 4 at the Baumholder American High School sports complex. Stateside football coach Marcus George conducts this four-day clinic for any soldier interested in working with and helping coach the high school team next fall. Persons interested may contact coach John Best at mil 485-6295.

Interested individuals should submit a resume that includes previous coaching experience, previous playing experience, references, commander's name and telephone number, rotation date and work and home telephone numbers.

Volunteers must be willing to work with the players every day from Aug. 20 through Oct. 30. Practice time is 3 to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Saturdays are game days and will take up most of the volunteers' day.

## School calendar

- May 29, no school, Memorial Day
- June 9, high school seniors graduation
- June 15, last day of school, summer break

## Education mil 485-7557

Registration has begun for the next semester with the University of Maryland. A multitude of college courses are being offered at Baumholder. Stop by the education center, Building 8108 to register. Baumholder's Adult Education Program is offering Conversational German I and Conversational French I, starting June 5. Register early as class space is limited.

An Automotive Electricity Course is being offered during the upcoming college term in June. A new, more realistic, test is offered to allow soldiers to bypass the prerequisite course. Call mil 485-6487 for more information.

Central Texas College has job openings at the Baumholder Education Center for an academic instructor (tutor) during evening hours. A bachelor of arts or science is required. A FAST instructor for daytime classes is needed and a bachelor of arts or science is also required. A substitute Army Learning Center Operator to work day or evening hours is also needed. Call mil 485-6484 for more information.

Taking computer courses is now only a mouse click away with City Colleges Of Chicago's wide range of Computer Information Systems courses offered via the Internet.

Use your own computer to take courses in programming, word processing, spreadsheets, database and telecommunications. Enrollment is open and continuous, so you can register any time. Contact your Field Representative at the education center for more information.

## Info

### Commissaries close

The Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke Commissaries will be closed May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

### Bank changes hours

The Baumholder NationsBank will have a change of operating hours May 17 due to staff training. Hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Jobs

### Thrift shop has jobs

The Baumholder Thrift Shop currently has job openings. Persons interested a position may submit a resume to Cindy Irby by May 2 at: HHB DIVARTY, Unit 23705 Box 172, APO AE 09034

### ACAP has job opening

The Army Career and Alumni Program is now accepting resumes for the position of ACAP Counselor at both the Baumholder and Kaiserslautern offices. This is a contractor position for current U.S. ID cardholders. Position requires a master's degree, two years teaching or presentation experience, and computer literacy with Microsoft Word and the Internet. For detailed information call Bobbi Curriss at mil

485-6741.

### AF positions

Attorney-Advisor (General), GS-12, open until filled

Assistant Child Development Center Director, GS-7, open until filled

### NAF jobs

The following nonappropriated funds positions are available in the Baumholder community at the indicated locations:

#### Youth Services

Child and Youth Program Assistant, flexible, \$7.47 per hour, open until filled

**Smith, Wetzell, Dispensary, Strassburg CDCs**

Child and Youth Program Assistant, flexible, \$7.47 per hour, open continuous

#### Smith SAS

Child and Youth Program Assistant, flexible, \$7.47 per hour, open until filled

#### Rec Emporium

Recreation Assistant (aerobics), flexible, \$7.50 per hour, open until filled

#### Baumholder Pool

Recreation Aid, flexible, \$6.19 per hour, open until filled

#### Rod and Gun Club

Waitress, flexible, \$6.16 per hour, open until filled

#### Bowling Center

Recreation Aid, flexible, \$5.50 per hour, open until filled

Bowling equipment repair person, regular full time, \$8.79, open until filled

For more information on these job opportunities, call the Nonappropriated Funds Civilian Personnel Office at mil 485-6566.

### Local national positions

Store Worker (Ladenhilfe), 2/3, closing date is Dec. 31

Sales Store Checker/Kassierer/in, 2/3/4, closing date is Dec. 31

Positions for Kitchen Personnel (Positionen fuer Kuechenpersonal), 2/3/4, closing date is Dec. 31

### Positions with ACS

Baumholder's Army Community Service has an opening for a full time Family Advocacy Program Community Educator; a full time Information and Referral Assistant; and a part time Marketing Coordinator. For more information, call Teresa Gaines at mil 485-6468.

## MWR

### Sports shorts

Bravo 123rd won the Baumholder preseason unit level softball tournament by beating

Charlie 1, 94th Field Artillery 4-0 in the championship game.

Community level softball is starting soon. The first two home games are May 20 vs Ramstein and June 3 vs SHAPE. Games will be held on Iron Soldier Field.

New classes starting soon include Hap-Ki-Do, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 p.m. in the Hall of Champions; Step Aerobics Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m. in the Hall of Champions; Step Aerobics, Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Mountaineer Gym; and Mouse Aerobics for children under five Mondays and Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. in the Mountaineer Gym. Call the Rec Emporium Fitness Studio at mil 485-6156 for details.

Lifeguards are needed in the Baumholder pool. Certification classes are provided free. Call mil 485-6156 for more information.

Sports events for Baumholder Days a swim meet, 3 on 3 basketball, one-pitch softball, flag football, boxing, and the Minnick Marathon. Sign up lists are available in the Hall of Champions. Registration deadline is June 9.

Minnick Field is still off limits. Persons may run on the track, though, as long as it does not interfere with the contractor.

### Soldiers can get fit free

In celebration of Armed Forces Day, all active duty Service members can work out and swim for free May 20 at the Baumholder Fitness Studio and pool. Call mil 485-6156 for more information.

### Let's volley

Get in on the action with the 222nd Base Support Battalion Women's Spring Volleyball League. The spring league plays through June 8. For more information, contact the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-7176.

### Tennis anyone?

Register by May 19 for the 222nd Base Support Battalion Tennis Tournament June 2 - 4 at the Baumholder tennis courts. Registration fee is \$10 and a minimum of four players must sign up for each division.

For women there is one open class for ages 18 and up. Men are broken down into open (18 - 34), seniors (35 - 44) and masters (45 and older).

Call the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-7176 for more information.

### Get ready to rumble

Start training now for the 222nd Base Support Battalion Baumholder Days International Boxing Night, June 17 at the Hall of Champions. Contact the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-7176 for more.

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# Iron Sappers move out of Strassburg Kaserne

By Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava  
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The 40th Engineer Battalion is on the move once again but this time they’re not assisting with any NATO peace keeping mission in the Balkans. Instead, they’re moving into their new digs on Smith Barracks, where fully renovated barracks await the vagabond sappers.

At a recent departure ceremony, Lt. Col. John D. Jordan, 40th Engineer commander, remarked “This occasion will bring to closure our three-and-a-half year stay in the midst of this beautiful city in the Rheinland-Pfalz.” He was referring to the picturesque city of Idar-Oberstein, famous for its gem mines, from which precious stones were once mined, and for the unique “church in the rock.”

The battalion’s move back to Baumholder, where the 40th Engineer Battalion was located from 1993 until deploying to Bosnia in 1996 is now possible since the extensive barracks renovation project has finally come to fruition. “We are pleased to reoccupy the area where our predecessor, the 293rd Engineer Battalion, was located for decades,” said Jordon.

The engineer’s departure makes room for the arrival of another unit at Strassburg Kaserne, the 1st Battalion of the 94th Field Artillery Regiment, a Multiple Launch Rocket System, or, MLRS battalion.

“I am certain that the 1st Battalion of the 94th Field Artillery Regiment and their commander, Lt. Col. Walt Cheshire, will be as conscientious as we tried to be in our surrounding community.

“We are grateful for the oppor-

tunities shared during our stay. Some of the more memorable ones were hosting the students from the Realschule for many traditional Thanksgiving dinners...and assisting the city with hosting the international gem trade show,” said Jordon

Originally designated as Artillery Kaserne-Algenrodt when it opened in 1938, the installation was later redesignated as Strassburg

Kaserne in honor of a previous German Artillery unit, the 2nd Alsace Field Artillery Regiment, which had been stationed in Strassbourg, France.

“ We are honored today to have several members of the original unit who were stationed here in 1938. Your presence here today at this ceremony with us as friends is a symbol of the deep friendship and strong relationship that exists to-

day as was built over the last 55 years,” said Jordon.

During the war years of 1939 through 1945, Strassburg Kaserne was used as a storage, staging and training center for German military units. At the conclusion of World War II, Strassburg Kaserne was initially occupied by French military forces. In 1952 the Americans began what is now a half century of service from Strassburg Kaserne.



Photo by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava

Soldiers from the 40th Engineer Battalion at Strassburg Kaserne in Idar-Oberstein perform the final retreat during a departure ceremony that officially marked the departure of the Iron Sappers from Strassburg Kaserne. The unit now moves back to Smith Barracks in Baumholder.

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## 2nd Brigade holds first Pre-Ranger Course

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Privates, sergeants and lieutenants recently underwent an intense 12-day Pre-Ranger Course to see if they have what it takes to challenge the six-week Army Ranger School.

The course was the first of its kind offered by Baumholder's 2nd Brigade.

In the instructors' living quarters on day 12 of the course, a weary eyed but focused Sgt. 1st Class George Hotaling, Alpha Company 1st Battalion of the 6th Infantry Regiment, explains, "The purpose of the course is to familiarize the soldiers with Ranger School itself. It's a good stepping stone that introduces them to what they should expect," A Ranger himself, Hotaling and a cadre of five other Ranger qualified instructors led the soldiers through 2nd Brigade's first Pre-Ranger Course.

The 1st Infantry Division usually offers a Pre-Ranger Course but since the division is deployed, Baumholder's 2nd Brigade stepped in to put soldiers through the rigorous 12-day challenge.

The actual Ranger School lasts 62 days and is divided into three phases. "In the Pre-Ranger Course

we try to cover a little of each phase in just 12 days. The main thing we're concentrating on is sleep deprivation and keeping them motivated throughout the course," he said.

"Unfortunately, since we're limited in instructors, we are undergoing a little sleep deprivation ourselves," he said. Hotaling looks at a second instructor sitting on the edge of his bunk. His elbows rest on his knees and his hands cover his face as he talks to a soldier on a bunk next to him. The soldier is busy loading an M-16 clip with blank ammunition. As the rounds click into place, the instructor draws his hands down past his eyes, as if to keep them open, and begins briefing the day's agenda to the soldier who will assist with the training.

Hotaling then dons his rucksack and heads out the door to start the training day. In his wake are two other soldiers and a medic.

Outside, Hotaling lights a training explosive that rocks the compound, signaling the start of the final training day. The 30 remaining soldiers scurry out of their quarters and fall into formation. Forty-three soldiers began the course but the initial five-mile run in less than 40 minutes and a rigorous physical fitness test quickly weeded out



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

**Soldiers participating in the Pre-Ranger Course provide fire support during a platoon raid scenario**

those who lacked the motivation to continue.

For the 30 remaining soldiers intent on finishing the course, training begins with a brief platoon raid scenario near the compound, after which they climb aboard two, five-and-a-half tons and drive to the training area. At the drop off point they jump out of their vehicles and together with two instructors, they

disappear into the trees. It's their final day of training but it will be an "all nighter," followed by graduation - hopefully.

This course is mandatory for soldiers that want to attend the Army Ranger Course. For 12 days, soldiers are tested on their physical and mental stamina with things like sleep deprivation, a physical fitness test, combat water survival, land navigation, a five mile run in less than 40 minutes, and a 12 mile road march in three hours with a 40-pound rucksack.

The Pre-Ranger Course affords soldiers the opportunity to develop and prove themselves under rugged conditions. It is stress oriented and develops within the student the ability to function under heavy mental and physical stress, according to Sgt. 1st Class Darren G. Johnson, a former Ranger School instructor who helped develop the course for 2nd Brigade.

"The course focuses of realistic tactical training with leaders going through the deliberate planning and execution phases. Each student is evaluated in different leadership positions a minimum of three times throughout the course," said Johnson.

Leadership positions consist of administrative roles of platoon leader and platoon sergeant. Tactical evaluations are platoon leader, platoon sergeant, squad leader and team leader. These positions are rotated during planning, movement and before actions on the objective.

The course includes classroom instruction and field exercises and averages 18.5 hours of training per day.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

**A soldier searches casualties during the platoon raid scenario.**

After the course, Command Sgt. Maj. William Gunter, 1-6th Infantry Battalion, said, "It was very professionally run, it was very good training and there was good feedback from the soldiers that went through."

Gunter added that he could not see any areas where improvements were needed. "There might be some small areas that we might want to look at for the next time but for the most part, it was up and beyond my expectations," he said.

"The course definitely hit home to the soldiers and they're all looking forward to hopefully having another one here soon," he said.

Conducting another Pre-Ranger Course will depend on the brigade's training schedule and the upcoming deployment that most 2nd Brigade soldiers are gearing up for. "We're hoping, maybe before the KFOR deployment, to be able to run one," said Gunter.

So how many actually completed the first Pre-Ranger Course? Why not ask one who met the challenge?

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